



Public School Child Development Expansion Pilot 2006-2007

As a result of expansion funding from the South Carolina General Assembly, South Carolina public schools will oversee an innovative 4K pilot program during the 2006-2007 school year. While the final implementation details have yet to be finalized, the answers to many basic questions are posted below.

Q: What is the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program?

A: In May of 2006, the South Carolina General Assembly created a pilot program designed to expand the provision of four-year-old kindergarten in both school district and non-district settings for the 2006-2007 school year. The full text of Budget Proviso 1.75, which creates the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program, can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Q: Who will administer the program?

A: The South Carolina Department of Education will oversee 4K expansion in South Carolina's public schools. South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will oversee 4K expansion in private for profit, private non-profit, faith-based, Head Start and other non-public school district settings.

Q: Who will decide where each eligible student enrolls?

A: Parents will choose to enroll their children in either a public school district or non-district setting.

Q: What makes a child eligible to participate?

A: During the 2006-2007 school year, children must meet three separate eligibility criteria. Each must be:

- **AGE ELIGIBLE:** Participant children must be four years of age on or before September 1, 2006. (Children whose birth dates fall between September 2, 2001 and September 1, 2002 will be considered age-eligible for participation during the 2006-2007 school year.)
- **INCOME ELIGIBLE:** Participating children must qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program (185% of Federal Poverty or below) or be Medicaid eligible.
- **GEOGRAPHICALLY ELIGIBLE:** Participating children must reside in one of the 36 school districts serving as litigants in Abbeville County School District et. al. vs. South Carolina.

Q: In which school districts must children reside?

A: Initial funding priority will be given to students living in the case's eight "trial districts." These are: Allendale, Dillon 2, Florence 4, Hampton 2, Jasper, Lee, Marion 7, and Orangeburg 3. If funding permits, students residing in the 28 remaining "plaintiff districts" may be deemed eligible for participation on a prioritized basis, beginning with those districts deemed to have the largest populations of underserved four-year-old children.

These plaintiff districts are: Abbeville, Bamberg 1, Bamberg 2, Barnwell 19, Barnwell 29, Barnwell 45, Berkeley, Chesterfield, Clarendon 1, Clarendon 2, Clarendon 3, Dillon 1, Dillon 3, Florence 1, Florence 2, Florence 3, Florence 5, Hampton 1, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Lexington 4, Marion 1, Marion 2, Marlboro, McCormick, Orangeburg 5, Saluda and Williamsburg. (Note: The preceding list has not been prioritized.)

No other districts will be eligible to participate in this expansion pilot during the 2006-2007 school year. A list of the trial and plaintiff districts can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Q: How does the classroom funding work?

A: Providers will be funded only for individual eligible children served. Providers must maintain a classroom of at least ten (10) four-year-old students and may not exceed a maximum group size of 20, with a 10:1 pupil-teacher ratio.

Q: How much funding will providers receive?

A: A base allocation of \$3,077 per child, with the possibility of additional funding for supplies/equipment and transportation.

Q: May providers charge tuition and fees above and beyond the state allocation?

A: No, not for the school day itself. Tuition and fees may be charged for extended instructional hours and wrap-around care.

Q: What is the length of the required instructional program?

A: Approved 4K classrooms will offer a 6.5-hour school day, 180 days per year.

Q: Will a specific curriculum be required?

A: Yes. Providers will be required to utilize an approved, research-based curriculum aligned with the South Carolina Content Standards.

Q: How will be 4K expansion classrooms be staffed?

A: Both a lead teacher and a full-time instructional assistant will staff each classroom. Classrooms serving 10 students (the minimum class size) may be staffed by a lead teacher only.

Q: Who will be qualified to serve as an instructional assistant?

A: Instructional assistants will possess a high school diploma or its equivalent and have at least two years of experience working with children under five-years-old. Instructional assistants with less than an associates degree must have completed the Early Childhood Development Credential (ECD) 101, or enroll in and complete this course within twelve months of hire.

Q: What types of professional development will be required of staff:

A: All classroom staff (both teachers and instructional assistants) will be required to complete at least 15 hours of professional development annually, including hours in emergent literacy and teaching children of poverty.

Q: Will programs have to provide transportation?

A: No – although the provision of transportation will be considered desirable and programs providing transportation for eligible children may receive up to \$185 in additional funding for each student transported. Providers will be allowed to set their own reasonable transportation boundaries.

Q. What type of monitoring will be involved?

A: While the details of the monitoring plan are still being developed, providers will be subject to both announced and unannounced monitoring and technical assistance visits from the State Department of Education staff throughout the school year.